

## ABSTRACT

## Method and apparatus for identifying hierarchical data structures

[30010442]

5 A data communications signal conforming to the SDH/SONET hierarchy of data structures is analysed to determine the structure to which it conforms. Payload pointers within the signal are extracted and interpreted to establish their status. The pointer statuses are grouped and analysed, enabling the structure of the payload data to be established. The structure of the data signal may be displayed in a format which conveys the information concisely, and facilitates detailed investigation of individual characteristics of the data signal.

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(Fig. 2)